



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corps seeks public's help to solve crime at Jennings Randolph Lake

Jennings Randolph Lake, W.V. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Jennings Randolph Lake is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the vandals who destroyed property at the Howell Run Boat Launch last week.

The area was intentionally damaged by unknown individuals who drove a vehicle through the launch's grassy areas, tearing up the turf. The crime, which resulted in approximately \$500 in damages, occurred sometime between the evening of Wednesday, April 2, and the morning of Thursday, April 3. The facility had just been opened to the public for the 2008 recreation season.

Each year, millions of dollars in property are lost due to vandalism, larceny, arson and environmental and cultural degradation. As stewards of the public lands, the Corps is responsible for managing public lands in the most beneficial manner possible, and to provide safe access and facilities for public use. Current funding levels to operate and maintain our facilities are limited. The increased cost of repairing damaged facilities can potentially result in reduced services, including partial or total closure of recreation areas.

To help fight these crimes and reduce operations and maintenance costs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is asking for your assistance in reporting any information concerning theft, vandalism or any other threats or suspicious activity against Corps property. Callers can remain anonymous.

To report information, call the Corps' Park Rangers at (304) 355-2346 or (301) 359-3861, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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